

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figs. 3 and 4 as in the attached sheet.

REMARKS

The drawings have been amended to identify by reference numeral specific elements described in the originally filed application. The changes are made for purposes of clarity.

The written description has been amended to described the structure inherently disclosed in the original application and to correspond to language used in the claims, as amended herein. No new matter has been introduced.

Approval of the changes to the drawings and written description is requested.

Claims 1-13, 15-33 and 35-43 are currently pending in the application. New claim 44 is presented for consideration. Claims 1-13, 15, 18-22, 24-28 and 40-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,543,326, to Rohrberg et al. (Rohrberg). Claims 29-33 and 35-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,980,943, to Barnes et al. (Barnes). Claims 16, 17, 23 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Rohrberg.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-13, 15-33 and 35-43 is requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to characterize the horizontal wall as having a flat upwardly facing surface residing substantially in a first reference plane. The horizontal wall is configured so that the first layer can be directed up to and nested in the U-shaped first receptacle by movement relative to the transition strip parallel to the first reference plane without deforming the cap.

Rohrberg's structure is very different than that in applicant's claim 1. Rohrberg contemplates that the core element, corresponding to the cap recited in applicant's claim 1, be pressed forcibly against the layers 20, 22 thereunder after the layers 20, 22 are put

in place. In the embodiment shown in Figs. 2, 2a, 2c and 3, the corresponding cap is installed after the layers are put in place. This requires a separate component that is press fit into place.

As an alternative, as shown in Fig. 3a, the corresponding cap element is bent to allow placement of the layers, after which the cap is bent downwardly to its operative state. Applicant's structure recited in claim 1 does not require any substantial reconfiguration of the cap to accommodate the separate layers with which the transition strip is utilized.

Rohrberg's structure is incapable of accepting a layer between the corresponding horizontal wall and cap, that can be moved by translation up to and into the receptacle therefor, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 is believed allowable.

Claims 2-13, 15, 18-22, 24-26 and 44 depend cognately from claim 1 and recite further significant structural detail to further distinguish over Rohrberg.

As one example, claim 19 characterizes the cap as having a second downwardly facing surface that meets the second surface on the upright wall at a radiused surface portion.

As seen in Fig. 3a, all corresponding junctures are unradiused.

Claim 25, as amended, characterizes the free end of the cap portion as rounded so that there are no sharp corners or edges on the portion of the cap, as might snag with any associated layer.

Rohrberg has corresponding sharp corners adjacent each of the free ends of the cap.

Claim 44 further distinguishes over Rohrberg by characterizing the upwardly facing surface as substantially flat from the upright wall fully to the free end of the horizontal wall.

Independent claim 27, among other limitations, characterizes the cap as having a downwardly facing surface that meets a second surface on the upright wall at a radiused surface portion. As noted above, Rohrberg does not teach or suggest this limitation.

Claim 27 further characterizes the cap as having a first portion that projects a first distance from the upright wall and second portion that projects a second distance from the upright wall, with the first portion bounding the first receptacle. The first distance is characterized as substantially greater than the second distance.

In Rohrberg, the corresponding first distance is less than the second distance. Accordingly, claim 27 is not anticipated by Rohrberg. Further, one would modify Rohrberg to arrive at the claimed structure only by using applicant's disclosure as a template and by benefitting from hindsight.

Claim 28 depends from claim 27 and recites further significant structural detail to further distinguish over Rohrberg.

In claim 40, which depends from claim 19, the second length is characterized as being substantially greater than the first length. In Rohrberg, the corresponding second length is less than the first length.

In claims 41, 42, and 43, which depend cognately from claim 40, the first and second lengths are reversed so that there is no correspondence of components with Rohrberg. The additional detail in these claims further distances them from Rohrberg.

Claim 29 characterizes the horizontal wall as having oppositely facing flat surfaces within first and second reference planes, with the horizontal wall weakened so as to be reconfigurable within a space between the first and second reference planes. As the

language was originally presented, the structure was distinguishable from Barnes in this respect. Barnes does not disclose any weakening which allows reconfiguration within a corresponding space. For purposes of clarity, the space has been redundantly characterized as bounded by planes spaced from each other by the thickness of the horizontal wall.

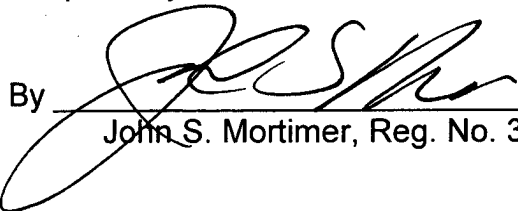
Claims 30-33 and 35-39 depend cognately from claim 29 and recite further significant structural detail to further distinguish over the cited art.

The Examiner relies on Rohrberg in rejecting claims 16, 17, 23, and 39, each which includes dimensional limitations. It is respectfully submitted that Rohrberg does not teach or suggest these dimensional limitations. In any event, the claims from which these claims depend are not anticipated by, or made obvious from, any of the prior art cited by the Examiner.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-13, 15-33, 35-43, favorable consideration of new claim 44, and allowance of the case are requested.

The added claim fee of \$25.00 is enclosed. Should additional fees be required in connection with this matter, please charge our deposit account No. 23-0785.

Respectfully submitted,

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Fig. 3

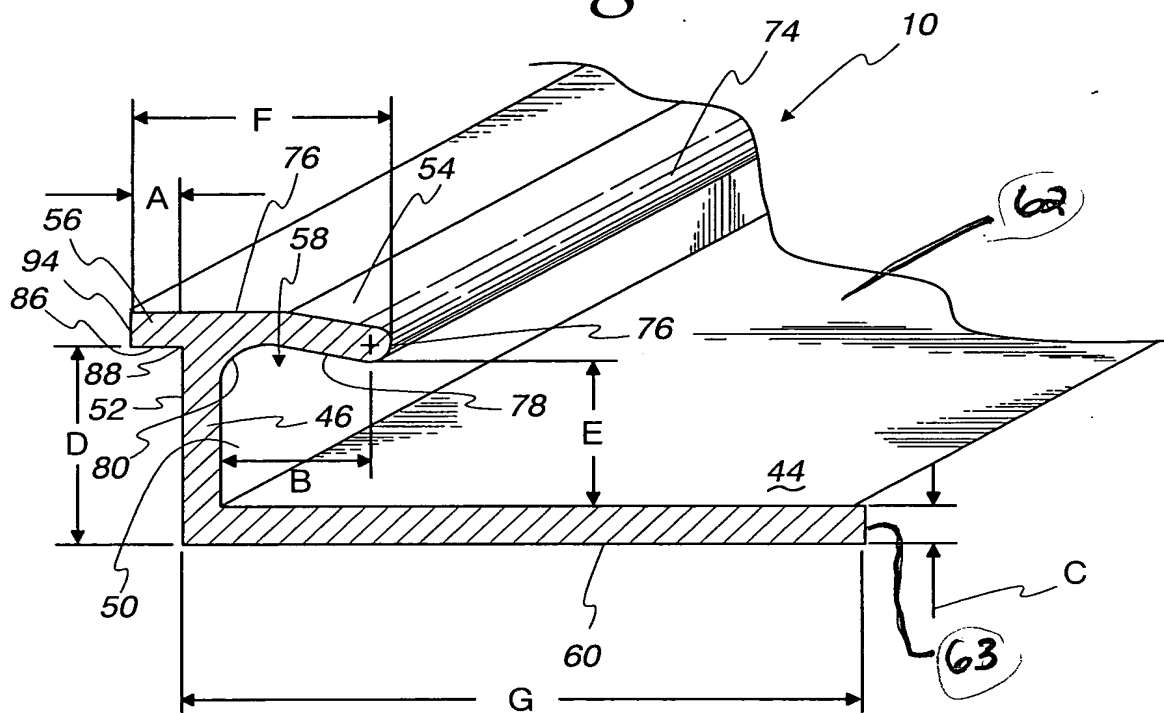


Fig. 4

